

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

66652

DRAFTED BY: EUR/RPM:RHFROWICK:RM

APPROVED BY: EUR/RPM:RHFROWICK

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R 171620Z SEP 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 198399 ACTION USUN NEW YORK

INFO BONN VIENNA GENEVA BERLIN BERN ROME PARIS

LONDON MONTREAL 10 SEP

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 198399

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, AU, GE, GW, UN

SUBJECT: UN ADMINISTRATION: PROLIFERATION OF UN
LANGUAGES

REF: (A) USUN 2991; (B) USUN 2907; (C) USUN 2864;
(D) BONN 12946; (E) STATE 178599 (F) USUN 2749

1. WE ARE GREATLY ENCOURAGED BY RECOMMENDATION IN REF (A)
THAT WE TAKE STRONGER LINE IN OPPOSITION TO FURTHER PRO-
LIFERATION OF LANGUAGES IN UNITED NATIONS AND TO SIGNAL
THIS POSITION BY RESISTING REGULAR BUDGET FUNDING OF
GERMAN LANGUAGE DOCUMENTATION.

2. HAVING ACTIVELY SUPPORTED INTRODUCTION OF CHINESE
(FUNDED AS A CHARTER LANGUAGE FROM UN BUDGET) AND ARABIC
(FUNDED TEMPORARILY BY VOLUNTARY ARAB CONTRIBUTIONS) AS
UNGA WORKING LANGUAGES AT 28TH UNGA AND TAKEN COMPATIBLE
POSITIONS IN UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, WE SAW SOME
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DIFFICULTY IN TAKING HARDER LINE VIS-A-VIS GENERALLY

FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL FRG AND AUSTRIA. (WE MINDFUL ALSO THAT GERMANS WERE REASONABLE WHEN U.S. NEEDED TO USE FRG ASSESSMENT TO REDUCE U.S. REGULAR BUDGET ASSESSMENT TO 25 PERCENT.) HOWEVER, THIS DIFFICULTY CAN BE AMELIORATED IF WE CAN ASSURE GERMAN-USING STATES (FRG, AUSTRIA, GDR -- AND SWITZERLAND IN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES) THAT WE ARE NOT OPPOSING GERMAN LANGUAGE PER SE BUT ATTEMPTING TO DRAW

LINE OF PRINCIPLE AGAINST ALL FURTHER PROLIFERATION OF UN LANGUAGES. WITHOUT SINGLING OUT OTHER PROSPECTS LIKE HINDI, JAPANESE, SWAHILI, PORTUGUESE, ITALIAN, WE WOULD INFORM GERMAN LANGUAGE DELEGATIONS WE PLAN TO SPEAK, VOTE, AND WORK AGAINST ANY NEW LANGUAGES NOT PAID FOR BY THEIR USERS. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE WOULD ALSO STATE THAT WE WOULD SUPPORT FURTHER SELF-FUNDING BY ARABIC LANGUAGE USERS. (ARABIC PRESENTLY SELF-FUNDED FOR THREE YEARS WITHOUT SUBSEQUENT COMMITMENT.)

3. ACCORDINGLY, IF YOU BELIEVE WE CAN SUCCESSFULLY MOUNT ALL-OUT EFFORT TO HOLD LINE AGAINST FURTHER LANGUAGE PROLIFERATION BEGINNING WITH GERMAN WE URGE YOU TO DO SO. WE WOULD CAUTION ONLY AGAINST OPPOSING GERMAN LANGUAGE NOW AND LATER FINDING OURSELVES PRESSURED TO ACQUIESCE IN OR BE STEAMROLLED BY OTHER LANGUAGES. THUS, MISSION SHOULD PURSUE SUGGESTIONS PARA 5 REF (A) SUPPLEMENTED BY LOBBYING EFFORTS TO RESTRICT FUNDING OUT OF REGULAR UN BUDGET TO PRESENT LEVEL OF FIVE CHARTER LANGUAGES; ANY ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE SERVICES WOULD BE ON BASIS "PAY FOR WHAT YOU USE," AS ARABIC CURRENTLY IS. WE COULD ACCEPT AN ALTERNATIVE PLAN UNDER WHICH ALL LANGUAGE SERVICES, INCLUDING CHARTER LANGUAGES, FINANCED ON PAY FOR WHAT YOU USE BASIS.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER DETAILS ON SCHAUFELLE'S CONSULTATIONS WITH SCANDINAVIANS ON LANGUAGE MATTERS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THEIR VIEWS ON ROLLBACK TO CHARTER LANGUAGES AND "PAY FOR WHAT YOU USE" SYSTEM. UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE298399
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/RPM:RHFROWICK:RM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740261-0293
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740937/aaaabfnj.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) USUN 2991; (B) USUN 2907; (C) US, UN 2864;
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <20 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UN ADMINISTRATION: PROLIFERATION OF UN LANGUAGES
TAGS: AORG, AU, GC, GE, UN
To: NATO BRUSSELS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005